



## METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

**Karl F. Dean**  
Mayor

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
METROPOLITAN COURTHOUSE  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37201

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### **NATIONAL LAND CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION SELECTED TO LEAD DEVELOPMENT OF OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR DAVIDSON COUNTY**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Mayor Karl Dean and The Land Trust for Tennessee today announced that the planning arm of The Conservation Fund, a national land conservation agency, has been selected to lead the team to develop an Open Space Plan for Davidson County.

The Conservation Fund, based in Arlington, Va. with field offices across the country, has worked in all 50 states to help communities, governments and corporate organizations preserve land and natural areas, while balancing environmental and economic goals.

The search process for a consultant with national expertise began earlier this year following the formation of a partnership between The Land Trust for Tennessee and the Metropolitan Government of Nashville to develop an Open Space Plan. The plan will be a roadmap for the strategic conservation and creation of green spaces, by both the public and private sectors, in an effort to protect the unique landscape of Middle Tennessee.

The creation of an Open Space Plan was one of the top recommendations by the Mayor's Green Ribbon Committee on Environmental Sustainability in their report released this past June.

"Green space and open space are a quality of life issue, an environmental issue and an economic issue," Dean said. "The Conservation Fund knows how to weigh all of these, and how to develop a conservation plan that's tailored to a community's unique goals and opportunities. I look forward to their work and to having a plan that will allow us to accommodate our city's future growth while maintaining a high quality of life and a healthy environment."

The Conservation Fund's work will kickoff early in the year with a complete inventory of the critical natural and cultural resources of the county. This inventory will be developed and then prioritized by input from the community. The final phase of the project will be recommendations for implementation of the plan. The plan is estimated to be complete in 12 months.

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## **Page 2, The Conservation Fund selected to develop Open Space Plan**

The Conservation Fund is partnering with ACP Visioning, Hawkins Partners and Clarion Associates. The Land Trust for Tennessee will be managing the project and working closely with the consultants.

“The Conservation Fund, through its focus on environmental protection and economic development, is uniquely positioned to lead a consensus-based planning effort,” said Jeanie Nelson, Executive Director of The Land Trust for Tennessee.

The project is being funded through a private donation by The Martin Foundation to The Land Trust for Tennessee, supplemented with funds from Metro already approved through the capital spending plan.

### **About The Land Trust for Tennessee**

The Land Trust for Tennessee is a private, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization, founded in 1999. Its mission is to preserve the unique character of Tennessee’s natural and historic landscapes for future generations. To date, The Land Trust for Tennessee has protected more than 43,000 acres of land and is working with numerous other landowners across the state, including extensive work in Davidson County. More information is available at [www.landtrusttn.org](http://www.landtrusttn.org).

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